(b) if so, reasons for not commissioning; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Though the Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Shamlaji was inaugurated in Janaury,1996, the transmitter could not be made operational due to non-availability of staff sanction for operation and maintenance of the project. Truncated staff sanction for the LPT has since been received and partial transmission from the LPT would commence as soon as deployment of staff is made. Regular transmission from the LPT would, however, depend or sanction of full complement of staff by the competent authority.

Electrification of Villages in Hilly Areas

330. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any project for electrification of villages particularly in hilly areas is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the efforts being made for its success in hilly areas;

(c) whether solar energy apparatus are not available in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e) Under the Photovoltaic Programme of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources a number of projects have been taken up for electrification of villages in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and some North-Eastern States. These projects involve solar appliances like solar Lanterns, Home Lighting Systems, Street Lighting Systems and small power plants.

During 1997-98, the entire North-Eastern Region, Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh and the State of Jammu & Kashmir have been identified as High Focus Area under the Solar Photovoltaic Programme.

In Uttar Pradesh the Programme is implemented through the Non-Conventional Development Agency (NEDA), U.P., which distributes solar energy equipment in all districts, including the hill districts, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has sanctioned 3000 Home Lighting Systems for electrification of villages on the Districts of Uttar Pradesh. NEDA proposes to electrify 52 villages using these systems during 1997-98.

Kota Airport

331. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the renovation of Kota Airport during the last five years and the type of work on which this amount was spent;

(b) whether any approval was given to the private companies to operate flights for this industrial city of Rajasthan on Delhi-Jaipur-Kota and Kota-Jaipur-Delhi air-routes;

(c) if so, the details thereof alonwith the period in which these flights where operated on these routes;

(d) whether the department had signed any contract with the said companies before initiating the air service; and

(e) if so, the reasons for discontinuing the said air service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PALIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) The amount spent on the renovation of Kota airport during the last five years is Rs.1.56 crores.

(b) to (e) Airlines are free to operate their services to any airport in the country , subject to approval by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, fulfilment of the route dispersal guidelines and other relevant provisions of rules prescribed by the Government, and meeting the requirements of permits issued to them . Government does not enter into contract with airlines.

[English]

Tickets Sale in Delhi Ring Railway

332. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) passengers tickets sale turn-out in Delhi ring railway during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(b) the net earnings of ring railway in Delhi during the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Number of passenger tickets sold in Delhi ring railway during 1995-96 and 1996-97 was 11,06,400 and 12,53700 respectively.

(b) Net earnings during the same period were Rs. 29,43,780 and Rs. 32,84,910 respectively.